

# CREATION

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## Vanishing dinosaurs

In recent years many new species of dinosaurs have been described, but now it seems that palaeontologists' attempts to construct a supposed family tree of these creatures may be badly flawed - for as many as one third of dinosaur species may never have existed.

An article in *National Geographic News* (accessed 09 October) reports on a ten-year study by palaeontologists Mark Goodwin, of the University of California, Berkeley, and Jack Horner, of Montana State University. After examining a range of fossils of *Tyrannosaurus* and *Triceratops*, they have come to the conclusion that the appearance of these dinosaurs varied considerably during their lives. Thus many of the so-called species may just represent immature individuals.

In *Triceratops*, they found that fossils thought to be of juveniles have the horns on the head pointing straight, whereas in slightly older animals they curve backwards and in adults they point forwards. In juveniles the neck is protected by a series of triangular spikes, whereas in adults these are flattened and fused into the characteristic frilled plate.



Fossil skull of an adult *Triceratops*, showing the forward directed horns and the frilled plate that protected the neck. Image: CSM.

In *Tyrannosaurus*, fossils thought to be of young animals have a relatively long and slender head with the lower jaw bearing 17 teeth, whereas adults have a relatively short and stout head and with the lower jaw bearing 12 teeth. They suggest that this change reflects the changing needs of this predator as it grew larger – the shape of the adult's snout would have been better able to take in very large meals. It would also have needed fewer blade-shaped teeth and would have relied more on its bone-crushing grinding teeth. For Goodwin and Horner, the “smoking gun” came with the

discovery of a fossil thought to be of a young adult. This specimen had a skull shape intermediate between the young and fully adult forms and had 14 teeth in its lower jaw. They also consider that the lean and graceful supposed species *Nanotyrannus* may actually be just an adolescent *Tyrannosaurus*.

Independent support for their ideas comes from Hans-Dieter Sues, a palaeontologist at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.. He commented that scientists discovered in the 1970s that some duck-billed dinosaur species were in fact animals in different stages of maturity - representing a smaller number of species.

Bearing these facts in mind, what is one to make of an article that appeared only a few weeks earlier on the BBC News website (accessed 17 September) dealing with a tiny supposed ancestor of *Tyrannosaurus rex*? Called *Raptorex kriegsteini*, this animal was only about 3m long and would have weighed about 65kg. The researchers who published its discovery are reported to have commented that, "the fossil displays the same features as *T. rex* but in miniature".

It is also fascinating to consider another report from the BBC News website (accessed 14 October) that deals with the discovery of a new species of flying reptile called *Darwinopterus*. Dr David Unwin, from the University of Leicester, UK, is quoted as saying, "The strange thing about *Darwinopterus* is that it has a head and neck just like that of advanced pterosaurs, while the rest of the skeleton, including a very long tail, is identical to that of primitive forms."

Creationists have long known that the methods used by evolutionists to date

fossils are unreliable, as they depend upon a number of unproven assumptions. Now evolutionists have the added complication that the changes in morphology (taken to indicate a supposed evolutionary transition from "ancestor" to "descendant") may not be reliable either, as they could represent just one variable species. No wonder *Darwinopterus* is so puzzling to evolutionists with its mixture of "advanced" and "primitive" features – there are too many presuppositions built in to this loaded terminology. How fitting, then, that this new species has been called *Darwinopterus*. For this name means "Darwin's wing", and Darwin's theory of evolution can certainly be regarded as a flight of fancy.

## **Egyptian Coins with Joseph's Name and Image**

On 24th September 2009, it was announced in Special Dispatch 2561 of the Middle East Media Research Institute that coins had come to light in the Museum of Egypt that bear the name and image of the Biblical Joseph. The dispatch, reported in the Al-Ahram daily newspaper, attributes the discovery to the research team led by Dr Sa'id Thabet, who were sifting through various hitherto unsorted items in the museum vaults. Dr Thabet has been engaged in a considerable research programme into the life and times of Joseph. Some of the coins were also found in the vaults of the Egyptian Antiquities Authority. Below is an extract of the report, which may be read in full on the internet:

“The researcher identified coins from many different periods, including coins that bore special markings identifying them as being from the era of Joseph. Among these, there was one coin that had an inscription on it, and an image of a cow symbolizing Pharaoh's dream about the seven fat cows and seven lean cows, and the seven green stalks of grain and seven dry stalks of grain. It was found that the inscriptions of this early period were usually simple, since writing was still in its early stages, and consequently there was difficulty in deciphering the writing on these coins. But the research team [managed to] translate [the writing on the coin] by comparing it to the earliest known hieroglyphic texts...”

“Joseph's name appears twice on this coin, written in hieroglyphs: once the original name, Joseph, and once his Egyptian name, Saba Sabani, which was given to him by Pharaoh when he became treasurer. There is also an image of Joseph, who was part of the Egyptian administration at the time.”<sup>1</sup>

Coins (silver pieces) are, of course, mentioned in Genesis 23:14 when Abraham was settling with Ephron the price of the

Cave of Machpelah; in Genesis 37:28 when Joseph was sold into slavery<sup>2</sup>, and later in Genesis 42:35, where ‘bundles of money’ are mentioned. We are assured by Bible critics that no coinage existed at this time, but they are once again proved utterly wrong by archaeology.

## References

1. Web article available at <http://www.memri.org/bin/articles.cgi?Page=archives&Area=sd&ID=SP256109>
2. This is a most interesting sidelight. The going-rate for a slave in Joseph's time was 20 silver shekels, the price that the Ishmeelites paid for Joseph (Genesis 37:28). Before then, it had been 10-15 silver shekels. After Joseph, however, the value of a slave rose to 30 shekels (Exodus 21:32); the point being, if this part of Genesis was written 1500 years or more after the events it speaks of, as modernists have been proclaiming since the 19th century, how would the writer, be he J, E, P or D, have known what the price of a slave had been fifteen hundred years previously? I think we should be told.

*Bill Cooper*



Diverse ancient Egyptian coins  
Image: W. Cooper

## Cuttings & Comments from **New Scientist**

*by Dr David Rosevear*

**1 August p.6 Cool climates, smart times**

**“It is one of the biggest mysteries in human evolution. Why did we humans evolve such big brains, making us the unrivalled rulers of the world?”**

Experts **“hypothesised that our modern brain could not have evolved until the**

**Quaternary ice age started, about 2.5 million years ago. They reckoned such a large brain would have generated heat faster than it could dissipate it in the warmer climate of earlier times, but they lacked evidence to back their hypothesis.”**

The article wonders if there is evidence of different brain sizes for those living today in the tropics and those in Polar Regions. It is suggested that one driving force to increase brain size would be the desire to outsmart the neighbours.

Creationists see two fallacies in this hypothesis. Humans are rulers of the world because we are made in the image of the Creator, who gave us dominion over His creatures. Also no amount of wishful thinking can increase our brain size. The Ice Age followed the Flood some four and a half thousand years ago. Since then brain sizes and statures have diminished. So many of these ‘big mysteries’ are solved by using a creationist world-view.

### **1 August p.15 Comets wreaked icy devastation on early Earth**

It is suggested that during the so-called Late Heavy Bombardment, said to have been 3.85 billion years ago, huge numbers of icy comets rained down upon the Earth and Moon. Traces of the metal iridium (Ir) support the idea (if not the dating). Possibly **“about 3400 tonnes of ice would have hit each square metre of the Earth. That roughly tallies with the amount of water in Earth’s oceans today.”**

Genesis explains how the waters were gathered together to form the seas on Creation Day three. Bombardment with ice may have been part of the physical cause of Noah’s Flood. If so, the evidence of the heavy metal Ir would be found at the lowest sedimentary levels.

**1 August p.25 Letters: Ideas come round**  
This is a load of tripe from a London reader about the Bible supposedly teaching that the Earth is flat. The wonder is that *New Scientist* chose to print it.

Donald Rooum insists that **“Genesis states that God created the sky in the form of an inverted bowl holding a mass of water above the flat Earth. Scientists already knew that the Earth is roughly spherical, but many early Christians felt compelled to believe Holy Writ without question.”**

Clearly the letter writer has not read Genesis, but relied upon the ranting of those who wish to parody Scripture. Has he not known or heard? Has it not been told him from the beginning? Has he not understood from the foundation of the Earth? It is He who sits on the *circle of the Earth*, whose inhabitants are as grasshoppers (see Isaiah 40:21-22).

### **8 August p.28, 10 Mysteries of You**

The first mystery is why we **blush**. Charles Darwin was puzzled by this. Here it is suggested that it was initially an appeasement ritual, or a way to foster trust. Women apparently blush more than men, but it is not implied that they have more to blush over!

We know that men and women were uniquely made in the image of a holy God, and have a sense of right and wrong.

The next mystery is why we **laugh**, even without being tickled. Apes do pant when subjected to being tickled and it is here suggested that the ancestral ‘pant-pant’ laugh evolved into the human ‘ha-ha’. Laughter, it is said, helps strengthen social relationships and is also part of sexual selection (lonely hearts ads often insist ‘must have gsh’). What a mixture of truth and Just-So story!

Another mystery is why the **teenage years** of dependence last so long compared with

primates. Neurobiology and brain imaging **“show that there is a wholesale reorganisation of the brain during the teenage years... adolescence is... about developing a mind capable of negotiating the psychological and social landscape that makes human life so different from that of other animals.”** So, we are very different from animals, but that hardly implies evolution.

**Dreams** are useful in enabling our human brains to sort out the day's experiences.

**Altruism** is explained as promoting a close-knit group, rather than our being made in the image of God. **Art** suggests that there is more to humanity than planning the next meal. Why should creativity and appreciation of beauty develop to such a marked degree?

All these items listed as mysteries of evolution are explicable in terms of our unique brains and spiritual nature.

**Superstition** is a mystery to evolutionists. Religion may help to explain it. **“Religious faith involves a susceptibility to believe in a spirit world and its efficacy – even if it doesn't actually work, says Dunbar, who is a leading proponent of the idea that religion is adaptive. He thinks religion's main function is to persuade a community to toe the line, so promoting cohesion. This is achieved in part by tapping into our natural propensity to believe in supernatural beings that can influence our fate.”**

We will draw a veil over the other three mysteries: kissing, nose picking and pubic hair.

#### **15 August p.4 Boobies alive and kicking**

The Tasman booby, an Australian bird, was originally described from fossils. It had seemingly become extinct in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, after being eaten by sailors. It has



Masked booby adult and chick. The Tasman booby is a subspecies of this species.  
Image: D. Wright, in the public domain.

now been found alive, living among its fossil ancestors down under.

**“Geneticist Tammy Steeves, of the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and colleagues found a perfect match when they analysed DNA fragments from six Tasman booby fossils and compared them to DNA from a living bird...”**

Apart from the fact there had been no evolution between booby fossil formation and the present, one wonders how long ago fossilisation had occurred. DNA is breaking down and being replaced even during a bird's lifetime, so we wouldn't expect it to survive for more than a few thousand years.

#### **15 August p.11 Our ancestors learned to walk in the trees**

Ridges and concavities in the wrist bones of a number of primates had been explained as being supports for the palms

of the hand during knuckle-walking. However, it is now found that these features are not present in knuckle-walking gorillas, but are present in non-knuckle-walking monkeys. The wrist bones of chimpanzees may instead have adapted to stabilise the wrist while standing on one tree branch and holding onto another. Modern chimps and bonobos do just that. This casts doubts on whether early humans were knuckle-walkers or tree walkers.

Of course, early humans may have always been upright as the spine to skull connection suggests. The pattern of the pelvis also shows us to be upright. An evolution from a knuckle-walker's pelvic design doesn't seem feasible since a midway position is unstable.

#### **15 August p.44 Not the naked ape**

Review of *'Not a chimp: the hunt to find the genes that make us human'*, by Jeremy Taylor, OUP.

**"Take the 98.4 per cent, an oft-repeated figure that has been used to argue that chimps deserve human rights. True, *Homo sapiens* and *Pan troglodytes* share an extraordinary amount of genetic similarity – yet humans and mice share almost as much... A good example is *FOXP2*, a regulatory gene linked to speech and language disorders in humans. *FOXP2* in chimps has barely changed in the 130 million years since primates and mice diverged from their common ancestor. But after humans and chimps split, two key changes accumulated on the human line.**

**"Even greater differences may lurk in the areas of the genome once discounted as 'junk' DNA, which don't make proteins but instead determine gene activity. One recently discovered RNA-coding sequence that may be involved in cerebral cortex development was found**

**to vary little between chimps and chickens, yet humans possess 18 unique changes.**

**"*Not a chimp* should be mandatory reading for journalists who often reinforce the general public's misconception that chimps are practically human."**

Jeremy Taylor is a former BBC producer.

#### **22 August p.15 Fire forged the oldest stone tools**

**"Prehistoric humans may have harnessed fire to make hard, sharp stone blades soon after *Homo sapiens* emerged in eastern Africa 200,000 years ago. This might mean that complex tool use – and even language and art – arose far earlier than previously thought."**

If one thinks that humans evolved from less-than-brilliant apes, then evidence of intelligence in early man comes as a shock. Here heat-treatment had hardened the crumbly local stone near Cape Town to allow it to be sharpened.

Alternatively, man made in the image of God and initially enjoying fellowship with Him, would have had an efficient brain free from mutations and disease. Pre-Flood men were skilled in working brass and iron, and played musical instruments (Gen.4). While post-Flood men were handicapped by a hostile climate and diminished natural resources, they were still stronger and brighter than we are today. This is evidenced by various ancient artefacts, as well as their longevity. CSM carries the most interesting book *'The Puzzle of Ancient Man – evidence for advanced technology in past civilisations'* by Dr Donald Chittick (274pp, £8-50).

#### **22 August p.37 O others, where art thou?**

Established models of how our galaxy's cosmic neighbourhood should be, predict that the Milky Way should be surrounded

by thousands of small satellite galaxies. About 25 straggly galaxies, only 1 per cent of the expected number, loiter forlornly around the outskirts of our Milky Way galaxy. **“It is the cleanest (sic) case in which we can see there is something badly wrong with our standard picture of the origin of galaxies.”**

This observation throws into question the reality of Cold Dark Matter, the proposed invisible and undetectable source of gravity, not only holding galaxies together, but also forming galaxies after the postulated Big Bang.

**“Our standard picture of the universe comes from many decades of observations. It asserts that visible matter – the kind of stuff that you, me, the planets and stars are made of – is outweighed by a factor of 6 or 7 by invisible, cold dark matter. No one knows what cold matter is made of, but its existence has been postulated to explain how the stars in spiral galaxies can orbit at such break-neck speeds without being flung off into the void... Dark matter is also thought to have played a key role in shaping the early universe. In the aftermath of the big bang, it was the dark stuff that first began to clump together... According to the standard model of cosmology, a halo [of CDM] as large as the one thought to have seeded the Milky Way should be surrounded by thousands of mini haloes, which themselves should have seeded small satellite galaxies... all the evidence says these galaxies cannot possibly contain dark matter.”**

James Binney of Oxford does not want to give up the standard model. **“He says the missing galaxies are simply too faint for us to have detected them yet. Or they may be exclusively composed of dark matter with not enough gas to light up stars, he adds.”**

A bit like the emperor’s new clothes!

Some other specialists **“maintain that the mechanism preventing the existence of stars is the fatal flaw in the dark matter model. They face an uphill struggle convincing others, however: the majority of astronomers are wedded to dark matter and will not throw more than 30 years of work out of the window lightly. The truth is, says Binney, that both dark matter and MOND [modified Newtonian dynamics] are deficient in their own ways.”**

Also recently (18 August) the concept of dark energy has come under attack; see <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/6043414/Dark-energy-may-not-actually-exist-scientists-claim.html>

**“Dark Energy: have we seen the light? Richard Alleyne Science Correspondent. Dark energy - the mysterious substance thought to make up three-quarters of the Universe - may not actually exist, claims new research. The concept was created by cosmologists to fit Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity into reality after modern space telescopes discovered that the Universe was not behaving as it should. According to Einstein's work, the speed at which the Universe is expanding following the Big Bang should be slower than it actually is and this unexplained anomaly threatened to turn the whole theory upside down. In order to reconcile this problem the concept of Dark Energy was invented. But now Blake Temple and Joel Smoller, mathematicians at the University of California and the University of Michigan, believe they have come up with a whole new set of calculations that allow for all the sums to add up without the need for this controversial substance. However, their research is also controversial as it relies on our galaxy being at**

**the centre of the Universe - a concept generally disregarded in modern science.”**

If you are happy with the fact that in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, just a few thousand years ago, complete and very good, you can forget about fudge factors like CDM and Dark Energy used to bolster speculations like the Big Bang. And there is no need to modify Newtonian gravity.

#### **29 August p.12 Did two species mix to make butterflies?**

An egg that hatches into a caterpillar that then changes into a seemingly dormant chrysalis from which a butterfly emerges to lay eggs containing all the genetic information for the entire cycle is rather hard for an evolutionist to cope with.

**“This is the result of an ancient hybridisation between an insect and a worm-like animal, according to zoologist Donald Williamson... Nobody knows where caterpillars came from, says Williamson, who thinks that many other invertebrate groups acquired their larvae in the same way. ‘It is the only solution that makes sense.’**

**“Tommyrot, other biologists snort. For a start, the resemblance between velvet worms and caterpillars is only superficial.**

**“As appealing to the imagination as Williamson’s theory may be, it looks like the evidence is not there to support it.”**

And they say that creationist ideas are an abuse of science! Tadpoles into frogs are observed but frogs into princes are not.

#### **5 September p.7 Temples aligned with the stars**

Evolution supposes that man is still evolving from dozy to bright, having developed from dumb animals. We find it noteworthy that man was intelligent and technically advanced millennia ago. Here

we read that **“ancient Egyptian temples were aligned so precisely with astronomical events that people could set their political, economic and religious calendars by them... temples are all aligned according to an astronomically significant event, such as a solstice or equinox, or the rising of Sirius, the brightest star in the sky.”**

#### **5 September p.12 Not too big, not too small, Earth’s just right for life**

If Earth were as large as some super-Earths recently discovered, life would not exist. The pressure and viscosity inside these massive rocky planets, up to ten times the size of Earth, would be so high that a stagnant layer would form outside the crust, weakening convection currents needed to drive plate tectonics. A magnetic field would also be inhibited. Plate tectonics stabilise climate and a magnetic field deflects harmful radiation.

Once again we see the Goldilocks effect: our home is not too big or small, not too hot or cold, and our rotation not too fast or slow. Chance? No chance!

#### **5 September p.12 Trick of the light that made life left-handed**

**“A bizarre form of matter that might be floating 90 kilometres above Earth’s surface could help explain one of life’s enduring mysteries: why are the building blocks of the living world mostly left-handed?”**

Bizarre form/ might be/ could help? Probably not.

Proteins are made up of 100 per cent left-handed amino acids. Moreover, sugars in nucleotides are all right-handed.



**5 September p.15 Genes that only humans have**

**“At least three human genes evolved ‘from scratch’ via mutations in non-coding stretches of DNA, a process thought to be virtually impossible until recently. The genes evolved since human and chimp lineages split and so are unique to us.”** No animals have these genes, though they are present in all human genomes sequenced so far. They code for short proteins.

Genes that code for proteins have a precise order of nucleotides. It is statistically impossible that they could evolve by chance. In order to claim that they evolved, one has to assume that chimps and humans evolved from a common ancestor. This is arguing in a circle.

**12 September p.10 World will ‘cool for the next decade’**

**“Forecasts of climate change are about to go seriously out of kilter. We could be about to enter one or even two decades of cooler temperatures, according to one of the world’s top climate modellers...**

**“Latif predicts that in the next few years a natural cooling trend will dominate the warming caused by humans. The cooling would be down to cyclical changes in the atmosphere and ocean currents in the North Atlantic...**

**“Latif says the NAO [North Atlantic Oscillation] also explained the recent recovery of the Sahel region of Africa from the droughts of the 1970s and 1980s...the dramatic Arctic ice loss in recent summers was partly a product of natural cycles rather than global warming. Preliminary reports suggest there has been much less melting this year than in 2007 or 2008.”**

It seems that if global warming continues like this we shall all have to buy thick overcoats!

**12 September p.17 ‘Incoming!’ warned the eye**

**“Not just a window to the soul, the eye has a few tricks of its own. Newly discovered eye cells can warn us that an object is coming nearer, and do so without the brain’s help. This ability may have evolved to speed escape from predators...**

**“Further analysis of this one kind of retinal cell revealed that it fired only when an object approached...**

**““It’s an alarm system that’s as close to the front end of the organism as possible’, says Roska, ‘If you left it to the brain to respond, it might be too late.”** Particularly with some boxers.

One has to wonder how such a complex alarm reflex could evolve by small chance changes. It is more probable that this is a designed protection created by a caring God. How often have we all been preserved by such a blinking mechanism?

This discovery of ultra-rapid reflex action lends further immediacy to the fact that “we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump” (I Cor. 15:51-52). That change can’t come fast enough!

**12 September p.48 Preaching to the (un)converted**

Review by Randy Olson of Richard Dawkins’ book *The Greatest Show on Earth*.

(Olson is an American evolutionist film maker, one of five evolutionists on a discussion panel against your present *NS* reviewer at Cambridge University on 14 February last.)

Olson is somewhat embarrassed by Dawkins’ style of writing. **“Implying that**

**your audience is stupid does not qualify as a great new angle. Yet this is precisely what Dawkins does... By the first chapter he is comparing his predicament to a history professor forced to teach ‘a baying pack of ignoramuses’ and dealing with a ‘rearguard defence’. Today, he proclaims, ‘all but the woefully uninformed are forced to accept the fact of evolution’.**

**“It’s really kind of comical. If ‘spot the condescensions’ is a new drinking game, then bottoms up! There’s one in just about every chapter. Though Dawkins says from the outset, ‘this is not an anti-religious book’, he can’t help but knock religion throughout. For instance, he writes: ‘God, to repeat this point, which ought to be obvious, but isn’t, never made a tiny wing [All things bright and beautiful] in his eternal life.’ Young Earth creationists are, he writes, ‘deluded to the point of perversity’. You get the sense that Dawkins just can’t control it. It’s as if he suffers from an anti-religious form of Tourette’s syndrome.**

**“But in the end you have to wonder why Dawkins wastes so much time trying to argue with creationists.”** But he is not so much addressing creationists as trying to answer their arguments with scorn and invective.

### **19 September p.8 Primed to have learning in mind.**

A conference in Berlin has discussed how the latest findings in neuroscience could be used to improve education.

Timetabling exercise just before subjects like maths could help children to pay attention in lessons. Physical fitness helps with focusing the mind.

Children performed better in IQ tests after a year of music lessons. Having a second

language was also found to improve the ability to concentrate.

Our physical, mental and spiritual powers work together. These neuroscientists say it is a myth that we use only 10 per cent of our brains.

### **19 September p.16 Brain cells slicker than we thought**

**“It seems our brain cells are a model of efficiency. Mammalian neurons transmit electrical signals using much less energy than suspected.”** Mammals’ brains are much more efficient than, say, those of squid.

### **19 September p.16 Master gene that controls the killers**

The immune system protects us from outside organisms (non-self) that might do harm. In the front line of this defence are the ‘natural killer cells’ that patrol the bloodstream, the spleen and the lymph nodes. They identify and destroy cells that are cancerous or have been invaded by viruses.

A master gene has been discovered that sends them into action. **“Mice lacking a gene called *E4BP4* could make all other components of the immune system apart from natural killer cells, proving that the gene is indispensable for making the cells.”** But the cells are indispensable for the immune system that in turn is indispensable to the organism. Do evolutionists wonder how life continued before this gene evolved?

### **19 September p.25 One-minute interview: Trevor Nunn**

**“In 1925 the state of Tennessee took evolution to court. The acclaimed director is bringing the episode to the London stage.**

**“Creationism versus evolution is still hotly debated, to the point where there is still a legal issue in the US. A considerable proportion of people in the UK are opposed to evolution. In areas of the Middle East, Darwin is censored. Darwin has still only reached a minority of the population of this planet.**

**“William Jennings Bryan (the creationist lawyer in the Scopes Trial) was a religious fundamentalist but surprisingly he had very socialist beliefs. He stood for the presidency three times, and each time was for the poor, the dispossessed, the working man. What he saw in Darwinism was the worst kind of survival-of-the-fittest capitalism.”**

The interviewer asked what Trevor Nunn hoped the audience would take away from the play?

**“Some people will have their minds changed, some people will have their views confirmed, but I think a lot of people in the audience will not have listened to a debate about evolution. I think people will be fascinated by the arguments.”**

[Coincidentally, your *New Scientist* reviewer has typed this item on the day before he is due to debate with theistic evolutionists Professor Rev Michael Reiss and Dr Simon Kolstoe. All tickets have been sold out, confirming that folk are indeed fascinated.]

**19 September p.28 Not even a theory to cover our nakedness**

**“No one can agree why *Homo sapiens* is the only primate to have lost its body hair. But evolutionary science will be the poorer if we stop trying to find out, says Elaine Morgan.”**

Actually Bible students have a historical record that says that our first parents were created naked and unashamed.

**“‘No one supposes,’ wrote Charles Darwin in *The Descent of Man*, ‘that the nakedness of the skin is any direct advantage to man: his body, therefore, cannot have been divested of hair through natural selection.’**

Among possible reasons dreamt up by ‘science’ are: sexual selection of bare females; to avoid overheating while men hunted (though hair insulates against the sun); so as not to harbour ticks and fleas; and to allow sweat to evaporate.

But why should men try to shed body hair when none of the other primates did so, not even the equally sweaty patas monkey. Elaine Morgan points out that Oxford’s Alister Hardy had noted that along with hairless skin, we had a layer of subcutaneous fat similar to a number of aquatic mammals. Maybe we are not naked apes. Maybe initially Adam and Eve were



Barnacles and other marine life increase water drag on a hull very significantly. Image: CSM

clothed in glory like the Lord Jesus Christ on the mount of transfiguration. They bore God's image.

#### **26 September p.24 Slimy skin will cut fuel costs by keeping ships' bottoms clean**

Fouling of ships' bottoms by marine life necessitates trips to dry docks every couple of years to scrape off the barnacles etc that cause a 20 per cent loss of fuel efficiency. Anti-fouling paints pollute the oceans, so shouldn't be used.

Scientists investigated the skin of the long-finned pilot whale, *Globicephala melas*, whose skin is criss-crossed by a network of nano-scale canals too small for any barnacle larvae to stick to. The canals are filled with a gel of enzymes that oozes through the skin and these destroy proteins on the surface of bacteria and algae, but do not destroy whale skin itself.

In copying the idea, it is hoped to use a metal mesh over the bottom of the boat that exudes a sticky bio-safe compound that becomes more viscous on contact with water. As the viscous coating wears away, it removes any sea-life attached to it, being replaced by more yuck oozing up from beneath.

This proposed system is the result of intelligent design. So is the whale's skin! The potential savings in fuel and regular dry dock servicing will come with compliments of the Designer of the whale.

#### **26 September p.26 Living with aliens**

**"Many of the species we think of as a natural part of our landscape are, in fact, non-native. [The aliens of the title.] For example, the honeybee, which nearly a third of US states have named as their state insect, was introduced into North America from Europe in the 1600s."**

Just a few per cent of introduced species are harmful, most are relatively benign while some, like the bee, are beneficial.

What puzzles me is, if bees have been around for millions of years, why have they only arrived in the New World four centuries ago with European immigrants? The climate isn't a problem, nor yet the nectar. Maybe the time since the Flood is only a few thousand years after all.

#### **26 September p.49 Man of Passion**

This is a less-than-enthusiastic review of the film *Creation* that celebrates the life of Charles Darwin.

**"I desperately didn't want to give up on this film, but well before the end it had lost me... A film version of the development of 'the single best idea anyone has ever had' deserves exceptional treatment. If only this had provided it."**

Not that it was Darwin's idea. Belief in evolution goes back to the Sumerian civilisation, and natural selection had been proposed before Wallace and ~~Gronit~~ Darwin copied it (Edward Blyth, 1810-1873, an acquaintance of Darwin, in an article in *Magazine of Natural History* in 1935).

## **Adventures with CSM in Eastern Europe**

Soon after the fall of communism, a good friend of CSM offered to be our courier to visit a number of churches in Poland. The pastors were really hospitable. The congregations were enthusiastic about hearing that Creation could be taken seriously after all the decades when Evolution was insisted upon. One man told us he had travelled in especially from Russia!

At one point we were shown round a printing works. Before we left Poland we arranged for a sum of CSM money to go to the Christian printer so that he could print CSM pamphlets in Polish for the church. (Incidentally, CSM has always sent free to Third World pastors etc. We simply request an acknowledgement after one year that our mailings are of use.)

A last stop with a pastor down near the Czech border we remember vividly. His elderly mother, who knew no English at all, learned that David was due to speak at Cambridge University's Fitzwilliam Science Museum a few days after our return home. It was to be a big event for us. Taking our leave, the elderly lady put her hands together and carefully enunciated "I pray, November 12th" She got a big hug!

We returned via Berlin, where the Berlin Wall was being demolished; still a grim reminder of those who had died attempting to scale it in the face of communist gunmen. And we were still haunted by our earlier visit to Auschwitz concentration camp – too horrific to talk about here.

Back in the UK at the Cambridge lecture, we watched the students come in with big tomes under their arms to sit on the front row. A fierce exchange followed but it all ended in silence. Not one student could counter David's 'The Laws of Science' (now a CSM pamphlet). Dinner in the Hall that evening was nearly as memorable – a bun fight broke out. We were in two minds about taking refuge under the table or staying put to see which side won; not overtly to do with Creation or evolution theory! The next morning we continued on our way to Inverness to take a series of meetings in the far north.

This first foray into former Soviet territory and elsewhere would be followed later by a lecture given at a conference in Moscow, by invitation of Boris Yeltsin and chaired by the Director of the National Academy of Education, who turned out to be a creationist! *JR*

## God's grace in Zambia

CSM recognises that many third-world churches cannot afford to buy publications, and consequently each year we send out a number of mailings free. One such mailing was sent to a men's prison in Zambia and this resulted in a number of letters being received from the inmates there. The letters were passed on to a church in Portsmouth which has links in Zambia. Subsequently we were delighted to receive the following account (abridged) of a remarkable change for a man who was serving a life sentence in the prison:

"One such letter was from a man called Martin Chomba. He has an amazing artistic gift and decorated his letters with the most beautiful drawings of flowers and praying hands. He was instrumental in teaching bible study, and many of the inmates became born-again believers through Martin's witness to them. He also ran an intercessory prayer meeting in this dirty, stinking prison. His situation was bad: no literature; no toiletries; no visits from family or friends; no hope. Nevertheless, he praised and worshipped God, with amazing results."

"Someone in our church happens to come from Zambia. Shortly after I had started writing to Martin, she was planning to visit her family, and we managed to get

permission from the Home Office (another miracle) for her to go and visit Martin. He and the other prisoners had need of so many things. She was able to take the necessary requirements into the prison. However, she took more than bibles and toiletries: I believe that the atmosphere was changed by the presence of God when she entered the prison."

"Although Martin was a "lifer" he was set free! Since then he has more than continued to preach the word of God. Many orphaned children have been led to him. So what is Martin doing about that? Right now, as you read this story, he is in the process of building a 10-bedroom house for the children to live in. The children were lost and destitute and had been living in very difficult conditions, but God has led them to Martin because He knew he would do something for them. Martin is also caring for some widows. He is not counting the cost; he is relying on Jehovah Jireh, our God who will supply all his needs."

"We as a church are now fundraising to support the work that this man who was incarcerated has been set free to accomplish. This is just the beginning of something big - how do we know this? Because God always has a big plan, He is able to do so much more than we could ever imagine. If you feel moved in any way to make a contribution of some kind to the work Martin is doing please contact us via email: [pastorray@portsmouthipcc.org](mailto:pastorray@portsmouthipcc.org)  
*Roma Williams*"

## ‘Darwin Today’ Debate

A debate was held in Gosport, Hants, on 24 September to mark the opening of a mobile

Darwin exhibition that is being moved around the country during the centennial year. Two theistic evolutionists, Dr Simon Kolstoe of Christians in Science and Professor Michael Reiss were debating Dr David Rosevear of Creation Science Movement. The organisers had failed to find an atheistic evolutionist to take part. The chairman was Sue Broom, a BBC Radio 4 producer/presenter. Following opening statements, the three took questions from the audience.

DR pointed out that there are two sorts of science; the repeatable kind such as is carried out in the laboratory, and origins science that cannot be copied. No one, thank goodness, can repeat the alleged Big Bang, nor go back to a pre-biotic earth, and no one has witnessed a dinosaur change into a bird.

He also said that there are two sorts of evolution; micro-evolution that is simply variation within a kind, e.g. breeds of dogs, and proposed macro-evolution from protozoa to people. The former involves the selection of pre-existing genes during breeding while the latter would require the creation of new genes with new information. Information only comes from an intelligent source. MR said that sometimes during reproduction a duplicate



The Darwin Today panel in action. Image: CSM

gene is formed. The second copy may then be mutated to give a new function. There is the same problem here that chance and time cannot produce new information.

SK began dramatically by taking off his suit jacket, then his tie and then his white shirt, to reveal that he was wearing a Southampton football shirt beneath. We were all so taken up with the striptease that the significance to evolution theory was lost to me, and I suspect to everyone else. In essence, both theistic evolutionists submitted that the Scriptures are not to be taken literally. DR responded that the language of Genesis 1 with its evening and morning of day one etc showed that the writer intended it to be taken literally. The 4th Commandment shows a parallel between our week of work and the Creation week. A further commandment tells us not to tell lies, which would sit uncomfortably with an alleged metaphorical account dressed up as fact.

One man in the audience, who had come across from Essex to sit on the front row, averred that there is no evidence for the existence of a God. Yet he had faith in an unseen Big Bang, abiogenesis and macro-evolution. A lady who claimed to have studied poetry as a career said she didn't take the Bible literally. DR responded that in Gen 1 only verse 27 was poetry and in Gen 2 only v. 23 was poetic. The rest was sober prose. God waxed lyrical when creating man, and so did Adam when he saw Eve. One creationist asked how evolutionists viewed such non-material items as consciousness, and DR added that information defined creatures just as much as matter.

SB asked for a show of hands at the end of the evening, and about half of the audience admitted to being creationists. When she

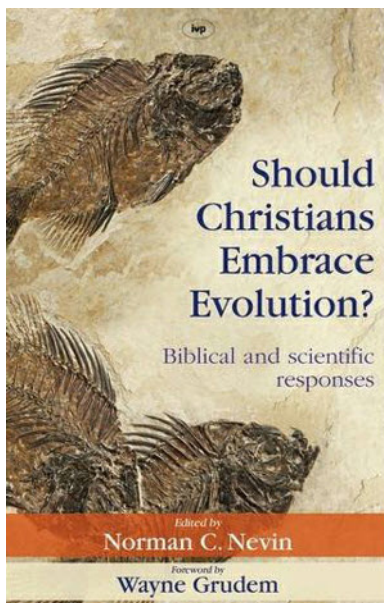
announced that the Darwin exhibition (all micro-evolution) would soon be visiting Portsmouth, DR was able to refer to the Genesis Expo just across the harbour by ferry from where we were all met.

DR

## New Books

### ***Should Christians Embrace Evolution?: Biblical and Scientific Responses***

This new book will be published in the UK in November through Inter Varsity Press. The editor is the leading UK geneticist Norman C. Nevin. Contributors include RT Kendall, Greg Haslam, Geoff Barnard, Steve Fuller and Andy McIntosh. It is written partly in response to Denis Alexander's book *Evolution or Creation: Do we have to Choose?* and seeks to show through careful scientific and Scriptural studies that Christians do not have to embrace evolution as Alexander and other





theistic evolutionists claim. It is, I believe, an important book that deals with many evidences against evolution which Alexander ignores.

From the Preface: "In the face of the new atheists' claim that evolution has rendered faith utterly redundant there is a flood tide arising that demands that Christians must embrace evolution or acknowledge that they are opposed to science. This book believes that this is a false premise. It is written to set out a clear theological framework on the relevant issues and to confront the questions that this gives rise to. It is written with a compelling conviction that science and faith are not in opposition. It is written by theologians who are committed to the authority of Scripture and to the exercise of careful exegesis. It is written by scientists who are fully persuaded of the importance of rigorous scientific investigation but who are dissatisfied with the arbitrary exclusion of possible conclusions and the failure to follow the evidence wherever it leads. This is not written for a select readership that already has expert knowledge of the subjects. It is written for ordinary men and women, who have the capacity to weigh the information, seek further clarification and draw their own conclusions."

Available from IVP or from CSM at £9-99.

*Andrew Sibley*

### ***Absolute Space and Time***

Francis Pym & Clifford Denton, 2009, ISBN-10: 1905447221. Available from [www.twoedgedswordpublications.co.uk](http://www.twoedgedswordpublications.co.uk) (not from CSM).

First published in 2005 as *Einstein's Predicament*, this newly revised and enhanced edition holds Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity up to scrutiny and examines its shortcomings. To take but one point, the authors show with a simple classical argument that Einstein's famous equation  $e = mc^2$  is quite independent of Einstein's theories. The implications of this are profound.

Challenging Einstein's basic assumptions, they make a case for a return to absolute measurements in space and time and deal with a new approach to the speed of light, opening the way to a much younger universe.

For readers with an interest in developing an understanding of the fabric of the universe and its underpinning mathematics, this short volume will provide an invaluable and stimulating summary and some cogent arguments to prompt evolutionists to rethink their beliefs.

<p><i>Articles in the Journal are generally by the editor, R. Cambridge, unless otherwise stated. Articles, letters, notes and other contributions from new writers are warmly welcome.</i></p>
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